

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-RF-R-01-06

Issued at Juneau, Monday May 8,
2006

Effective 12:01 A.M. Tuesday,
Date: May 16, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Sunday,
December 31, 2006 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies the sport fishing bag and possession limits of non-pelagic rockfish for both resident and nonresident anglers and requires retention of all non-pelagic rockfish caught until the bag limit is reached. In addition, a nonresident annual limit of three yelloweye rockfish is being imposed and charter operators and crewmembers will be prohibited from retaining non-pelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel. During 2006, the Board of Fisheries allocated 16% of the total allowable catch of demersal shelf rockfish to the sport fishery and provided the department the authority to impose management measures to curtail harvest. The 2006 allocation to the sport fishery equates to 66 metric tons which is about 38 metric tons less what the sport fishery harvested in 2004 and 19 metric tons less than in 2005.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (19) are added by this emergency order and become effective 12:01 A.M. May 16, 2006.

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(19) Non-Pelagic rockfish:

- (A) the resident bag limit is three non-pelagic rockfish and all non-pelagic rockfish caught must be retained until the bag limit is reached;
- (B) the nonresident bag limit is three non-pelagic rockfish only one of which can be a yelloweye; all non-pelagic rockfish must be retained until the bag limit is reached; with an annual limit of three yelloweye rockfish;
- (C) charter operators and crewmembers may not retain non-pelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

McKie Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Charles O. Swanton
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Board of Fisheries at the February 2006 meeting developed provisions for management of demersal shelf rockfish citing biological concerns relative to recent sport fishery harvests. The board allocated 16% of the total annual allowable biological catch to the sport fishery which equates to 66 metric tons for the 2006 season. The sport fishery harvest within marine waters of Southeast Alaska was 104 metric tons during 2004 and 85 metric tons in 2005. In response to these recent harvests of demersal shelf rockfish, the board developed a suite of management provisions to curtail the harvest of demersal shelf rockfish by the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.065). The three fish bag limit and retention requirement for all anglers and the additional restriction limiting nonresidents to only one yelloweye rockfish per day should result in a harvest reduction of 22%. The prohibition of charter operators and crew from retaining rockfish is anticipated to reduce harvest by 2% while the annual limit of three yelloweye for nonresident anglers may reduce harvest by an additional 10%. The annual limit is being implemented regionally in an attempt to keep regulations consistent across the region, avoid angler confusion, and make enforcement easier.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4297.